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Environment and sustainable development: further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Mr. Walid A. **Al-Hadid** (Jordan)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 87 (see A/57/532, para. 2). Action on sub-item (f) was taken at the 20th, 42nd and 44th meetings, on 30 October and 10 and 11 December 2002. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/57/SR.20, 42 and 44).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolutions A/C.2/57/L.19 and A/C.2/57/L.66

2. At the 20th meeting, on 30 October, the representative of Venezuela, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Promoting an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development" (A/C.2/57/L.19), which read:

> "*The General Assembly*,
>
> "*Reaffirming* the principles and commitments enshrined in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and the principles embodied in the Declaration of Barbados and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in eight parts, under the symbol A/57/532 and Add.1-7.

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Development of Small Island Developing States, as well as other relevant declarations and international instruments,

"*Recalling* the Declaration and review document adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-second special session,

"*Taking into account* all other relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly, including resolutions 54/225 of 22 December 1999 and 55/203 of 20 December 2000,

"*Welcoming* the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation adopted by the World Summit for Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26 August to 4 September, in particular chapters IV and VII of the Plan of Implementation,

"*Reaffirming* the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, and emphasizing the fundamental character of the Convention,

"*Conscious* that the problems of ocean space are closely interrelated and that they need to be considered as a whole,

"*Recalling* the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region, signed at Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, on 24 March 1983, which contains the definition of the wider Caribbean region of which the Caribbean Sea is part,

"*Welcoming* the adoption, on 16 October 1999 in Aruba, of the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region,

"*Welcoming also* the entry into force, on 18 June 2000, of the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region,

"*Recalling* the relevant work done by the International Maritime Organization,

"*Considering* that the Caribbean Sea area includes a large number of States, countries and territories, most of which are developing countries and small island developing States that are ecologically fragile, structurally weak and economically vulnerable and are also affected, inter alia, by their limited capacity, narrow resource base, need for financial resources, high levels of poverty and the resulting social problems and the challenges and opportunities of globalization and trade liberalization,

"*Recognizing* that the Caribbean Sea has a unique biodiversity and highly fragile ecosystem,

"*Emphasizing* that the Caribbean countries have a high degree of vulnerability occasioned by climate change and variability, associated phenomena, such as the rise in sea level, the El Niño phenomenon and the increase in the frequency and intensity of natural disasters caused by hurricanes, floods and droughts, and that they are also subject to natural disasters, such as those caused by volcanoes, tsunamis and earthquakes,

"*Underlining* the importance of the ongoing work of the group on climate and disasters established by the Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction,

"*Bearing in mind* the heavy reliance of most of the Caribbean economies on their coastal areas, as well as on the marine environment in general, to achieve their sustainable development needs and goals,

"*Recognizing* the Caribbean Environment Outlook process currently being undertaken by the United Nations Environment Programme, and welcoming the support being provided by the Caribbean Environment Programme of the United Nations Environment Programme towards its implementation,

"*Acknowledging* that the intensive use of the Caribbean Sea for maritime transport, as well as the considerable number and interlocking character of the maritime areas under national jurisdiction where Caribbean countries exercise their rights and duties under international law, presents a challenge for the effective management of the resources,

"*Noting* the problem of marine pollution caused, inter alia, by land-based sources and the continuing threat of pollution from ship-generated waste and sewage as well as from the accidental release of hazardous and noxious substances in the Caribbean Sea area,

"*Taking note* of resolutions GC(44)/RES/17 of 22 September 2000 and GC (46)RES/9 of 20 September 2002 of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency on safety of transport of radioactive materials,

"*Mindful* of the diversity and dynamic interaction and competition among socio-economic activities for the use of the coastal areas and the marine environment and their resources,

"*Mindful also* of the efforts of the Caribbean countries to address in a more holistic manner the sectoral issues relating to the management of the Caribbean Sea area and, in so doing, to promote an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development, through a regional cooperative effort among Caribbean countries,

"*Noting* the efforts of the Caribbean countries, within the framework of the Association of Caribbean States, to develop further support for their concept of the Caribbean Sea as an area of special importance, in the context of sustainable development and in conformity with the relevant provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,

"*Welcoming* the decision by the Association of Caribbean States to establish a working group of experts to further advance the implementation of the resolution, including through the preparation of a technical report,

"*Cognizant* of the importance of the Caribbean Sea to present and future generations and its importance to the heritage, the continuing economic well-being and sustenance of people living in the area, and the urgent need for the countries of the region to take appropriate steps for its preservation and protection, with the support of the international community,

"1. *Recognizes* the importance of adopting an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development;

"2. *Encourages* the further promotion of an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development, in accordance with the recommendations contained in resolution 54/225, as well as the provisions of Agenda 21, the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the outcome of the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly, the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development, the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development, and in conformity with relevant international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea;

"3. *Encourages also* the continued efforts of the Caribbean countries to develop further an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development and, in this regard, to continue to develop regional cooperation in the management of their ocean affairs in the context of sustainable development, to address such issues as land-based pollution, pollution from ships and the diversity and dynamic interaction of, and competition among, socio-economic activities for the use of the coastal areas and the marine environment and their resources;

"4. *Calls upon* the international community to support the efforts of the working group of the Association of Caribbean States to further implement resolution 55/203 and invites the Association of Caribbean States to submit a report on its progress to the Secretary-General for consideration during the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly in 2004;

"5. *Calls also upon* the United Nations system and the international community to assist Caribbean countries and their regional organizations in their efforts to ensure the protection of the Caribbean Sea from degradation as a result of pollution from ships, in particular through the illegal release of oil and other harmful substances, from illegal dumping or accidental release of hazardous waste, including radioactive materials, nuclear waste and dangerous chemicals, in violation of relevant international rules and standards, as well as pollution from land-based activities;

"6. *Calls further upon* all relevant States to take the necessary steps to bring into force, and to support the implementation of, the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities, in order to protect the marine environment of the Caribbean Sea from land-based pollution and degradation;

"7. *Calls upon* all States to become contracting parties to relevant international agreements to promote the protection of the marine environment of the Caribbean Sea from pollution and degradation from ships;

"8. *Invites* intergovernmental organizations within the United Nations system to continue efforts to assist Caribbean countries to become parties to the relevant conventions and protocols and to implement them effectively;

"9. *Calls upon* the international community, the United Nations system and the multilateral financial institutions, including the Global Environment Facility, within its mandate, to support actively the above-mentioned approach;

"10. *Calls also upon* Member States to improve as a matter of priority their emergency response capabilities and the containment of environmental damage, particularly in the Caribbean Sea, in the event of natural disasters or of an accident or incident relating to maritime navigation;

"11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to it at its fifty-ninth session, under the sub-item entitled 'Further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States' of the item entitled 'Environment and sustainable development', on the implementation of the present resolution, taking into account the views expressed by relevant regional organizations."

3. At the 42nd meeting, on 10 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Jan Kára (Czech Republic), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Promoting an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development" (A/C.2/57/L.66), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.19.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.66 (see para. 14, draft resolution I).

5. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.66, draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.19 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

B. Draft resolutions A/C.2/57/L.20 and A/C.2/57/L.64

6. At the 20th meeting, on 30 October, the representative of Venezuela, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States" (A/C.2/57/L.20), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolution 49/122 of 19 December 1994 on the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,

"*Recalling also* its resolutions 51/183 of 16 December 1996, 52/202 of 18 December 1997 and 53/189 of 15 December 1998, the review document adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-second special session, and its resolutions 54/224 of 22 December 1999, 55/199 of 20 December 2000, 55/202 of 20 December 2000 and 56/198 of 21 December 2001, and recalling further the Declaration of Barbados and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States adopted by the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,

"*Taking into account* the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on

Sustainable Development adopted by the Summit, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26 August to 4 September 2002, the particular emphasis given to small island developing States in the Declaration and the Plan of Implementation, and the call for the General Assembly to convene an international meeting for a comprehensive review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States in 2004,

"*Recalling* the report of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on its tenth session,

"*Welcoming* the establishment of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States,

"*Recognizing* that, within the context of the challenges of development, small island developing States experience specific problems arising from small size, remoteness, geographical dispersion, vulnerability to natural disasters, fragile ecosystems, constraints on transport and communication, isolation from markets, vulnerability to exogenous economic and financial shocks, limited internal markets, lack of natural resources, limited freshwater supply, heavy dependence on imports and limited commodities, depletion of non-renewable resources and migration,

"*Recognizing also* the significant efforts of small island developing States to achieve sustainable development and the need to continue to enhance their capacities to participate effectively in the multilateral financial and trading system,

"*Reiterating* the importance of the vulnerability index as a means of defining and addressing the vulnerability of small island developing States, as well as identifying the challenges to their sustainable development,

"*Recognizing* the relevance of such work to the mandate of the Committee for Development Policy on criteria for the identification, including designation and graduation, of least developed countries,

"*Noting* the efforts to implement the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States at the national, regional and international levels and the need for regional and global institutions to continue to supplement the efforts being made at the national level, inter alia, through adequate financial and technical support,

"*Emphasizing* the continuing need for the financing of projects that were presented within the context of the implementation of the Programme of Action, inter alia, at the meeting of representatives of donor countries and small island developing States, held in New York from 24 to 26 February 1999, as well as the partnership initiatives presented by small island developing States and their organizations during the World Summit on Sustainable Development,

"*Noting* in this regard the preparatory activities undertaken at the national and regional levels for the World Summit on Sustainable Development and expressing its appreciation to the Government of Singapore for hosting the

Alliance of Small Island States interregional preparatory meeting for the Summit from 7 to 11 January 2002,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;

"2. *Reiterates* the urgent need for full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and of the Declaration and review document adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-second special session to assist small island developing States in their efforts to achieve sustainable development;

"3. *Welcomes* efforts made at the national, subregional and regional levels to implement the Programme of Action;

"4. *Requests* the relevant organs and agencies of the United Nations system and the regional commissions and organizations, within their respective mandates, to undertake concrete measures for the further implementation of the Programme of Action in their programmes;

"5. *Decides* to convene an international meeting in 2004 including a summit segment to comprehensively review the implementation of the Programme of Action, as called for in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, and welcomes the offer by the Government of Mauritius to host this international meeting;

"6. *Also decides* that the comprehensive review, as referred to in paragraph 5 above, shall focus on the further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States through the development of an action-oriented plan of implementation;

"7. *Further decides* to convene regional preparatory meetings of small island developing States, in the African, Caribbean and Pacific regions, as well as an interregional preparatory meeting for all small island developing States, to undertake the review of the Programme of Action at the national, subregional and regional levels and to identify and develop small island developing States-specific inputs into the review, as referred to in paragraph 5 above;

"8. *Welcomes* the initial efforts of the small island developing States to develop national and regional modalities that are necessary for the regional preparatory meetings, and calls upon the United Nations system in general and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat in particular, as well as the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, the multilateral financial institutions and the Global Environment Facility, to put in place modalities at the international level to facilitate the meetings referred to in paragraphs 5 and 7 above in a timely manner;

"9. *Decides* that the Commission on Sustainable Development shall act as the preparatory committee for the international meeting referred to in paragraph 5 above, and shall undertake the comprehensive review of the Programme of Action and consider and finalize the plan for its implementation;

"10. *Invites* all Member States of the United Nations and the specialized agencies, and relevant regional and international agencies and organizations as well as the major groups identified in Agenda 21, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the Commission on Sustainable Development as well as its established practices, to participate fully in the activities identified for the further implementation of and effective follow-up to the Programme of Action and in the preparations for the comprehensive review;

"11. *Invites* all international meetings of relevance to small island developing States, including regional and interregional meetings of the small island developing States, to provide relevant input into the comprehensive review and its preparatory process;

"12. *Calls* for the immediate strengthening of the Small Island Developing States Unit to assist with the preparation of the comprehensive review of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;

"13. *Also calls* for the participation of associate members of regional commissions in the comprehensive review referred to above and in the preparatory process thereof, in the same capacity as observer that held for their participation in the 1994 Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and in the 1999 special session of the General Assembly to review the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;

"14. *Urges* all relevant organizations to finalize by 2004 the work on the vulnerability index, taking into account the particular circumstances and needs of small island developing States;

"15. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-eighth session, under the item entitled 'Environment and sustainable development', the sub-item entitled 'Further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States';

"16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution."

7. At the 44th meeting, on 11 December, the Committee had before it a statement on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.20, submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly (A/C.2/57/L.79), which was corrected by the deletion of paragraph 4.

8. At the same meeting, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Jan Kára (Czech Republic), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States" (A/C.2/57/L.64), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.20.

9. Also at the 44th meeting, the Committee was informed that the statement of programme budget implications contained in document A/C.2/57/L.79 also applied to draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.64.

10. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.64 (see para. 14, draft resolution II).

11. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Norway, Samoa (on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States), Venezuela (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China) and Tuvalu (see A/C.2/57/SR.44).

12. Also at the 44th meeting, the Chairman of the Committee read out the following statement:

> "Having now adopted the resolution on small island developing States, there are two related matters that I would like to draw to the attention of the Committee and ask that they bear in mind and convey to their capitals:
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> "(a) First, in paragraph 5 of the resolution, we have decided to convene an international meeting in 2004. I understand that conference services has advised that the calendar of conferences currently has a gap in the latter part of August and early part of September 2004 during which the international meeting could take place. I also understand that the Group of 77 and China would like the meeting to take place during that period and are concerned that the current opening in the calendar of conferences not be lost. There also appears to be a general desire by members to bring clarity to the issue of the timing of the meeting at the next available opportunity. In the meantime, I would ask the Secretariat to draw this matter to the attention of the Committee on Conferences;
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> "(b) Secondly, in paragraph 15 of the resolution, we have decided to establish a voluntary fund for the purpose of assisting small island developing States, and the least developed among them, in participating in the international meeting and its preparatory process. I understand that a similar fund was established for the 1994 Barbados Conference and that approximately $30,000 remains in that fund. I also understand that the Group of 77 and China would like to make use of those monies for the purpose of assisting small island developing States, and the least developed among them, to participate in the 2004 international meeting and its preparatory process. In order to do so, the Secretariat will need to obtain the agreement of all donors to the original 1994 fund. The Secretariat will shortly be writing to donor Governments to obtain their agreement."

13. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.64, draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.20 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendations of the Second Committee

14. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Promoting an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the principles and commitments enshrined in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development[1] and the principles embodied in the Declaration of Barbados[2] and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[3] as well as other relevant declarations and international instruments,

Recalling the Declaration[4] and review document[4] adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-second special session,

Taking into account all other relevant General Assembly resolutions, including resolutions 54/225 of 22 December 1999 and 55/203 of 20 December 2000,

Taking into account also the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[5] and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation,[6]

Noting with interest the respective partnership initiatives voluntarily undertaken by Governments, international organizations and major groups, announced at the Summit,

Reaffirming the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,[7] which provides the overall legal framework for ocean activities, and emphasizing its fundamental character,

Conscious that the problems of ocean space are closely interrelated and need to be considered as a whole through an integrated, interdisciplinary and intersectoral approach,

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[1] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

[2] *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[3] Ibid., annex II.

[4] See resolution S-22/2, annex.

[5] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[6] Ibid., resolution 2, annex.

[7] See *The Law of the Sea: Official Texts of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 and of the Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 with Index and Excerpts from the Final Act of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.V.10).

Emphasizing the importance of national, regional and global action and cooperation in the marine sector as recognized by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in chapter 17 of Agenda 21,[8]

Recalling the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region,[9] signed at Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, on 24 March 1983, which contains the definition of the wider Caribbean region of which the Caribbean Sea is part,

Welcoming the adoption, on 16 October 1999 in Aruba, of the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities[10] to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region,

Welcoming also the entry into force, on 18 June 2000, of the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife[11] to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region,

Recalling the relevant work done by the International Maritime Organization,

Considering that the Caribbean Sea area includes a large number of States, countries and territories, most of which are developing countries and small island developing States that are ecologically fragile, structurally weak and economically vulnerable and are also affected, inter alia, by their limited capacity, narrow resource base, need for financial resources, high levels of poverty and the resulting social problems and the challenges and opportunities of globalization and trade liberalization,

Recognizing that the Caribbean Sea has a unique biodiversity and highly fragile ecosystem,

Emphasizing that the Caribbean countries have a high degree of vulnerability occasioned by climate change and climate variability, associated phenomena, such as the rise in sea level, the El Niño phenomenon and the increase in the frequency and intensity of natural disasters caused by hurricanes, floods and droughts, and that they are also subject to natural disasters, such as those caused by volcanoes, tsunamis and earthquakes,

Underlining the importance of the ongoing work of the working group on climate change and natural disasters established by the Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction,

Bearing in mind the heavy reliance of most of the Caribbean economies on their coastal areas, as well as on the marine environment in general, to achieve their sustainable development needs and goals,

Recognizing the Caribbean Environment Outlook process currently being undertaken by the United Nations Environment Programme, and welcoming the

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[8] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

[9] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1506, No. 25974.

[10] See www.cep.unep.org/law.

[11] Ibid.

support being provided by the Caribbean Environment Programme of the United Nations Environment Programme towards its implementation,

Acknowledging that the intensive use of the Caribbean Sea for maritime transport, as well as the considerable number and interlocking character of the maritime areas under national jurisdiction where Caribbean countries exercise their rights and duties under international law, presents a challenge for the effective management of the resources,

Noting the problem of marine pollution caused, inter alia, by land-based sources and the continuing threat of pollution from ship-generated waste and sewage as well as from the accidental release of hazardous and noxious substances in the Caribbean Sea area,

Taking note of resolutions GC(44)/RES/17 of 22 September 2000[12] and GC(46)RES/9 of 20 September 2002[13] of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency on safety of transport of radioactive materials,

Mindful of the diversity and dynamic interaction and competition among socio-economic activities for the use of the coastal areas and the marine environment and their resources,

Mindful also of the efforts of the Caribbean countries to address in a more holistic manner the sectoral issues relating to the management of the Caribbean Sea area and, in so doing, to promote an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development, through a regional cooperative effort among Caribbean countries,

Noting the efforts of the Caribbean countries, within the framework of the Association of Caribbean States, to develop further support for their concept of the Caribbean Sea as an area of special importance, in the context of sustainable development and in conformity with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,

Welcoming the decision by the Association of Caribbean States to establish the Working Group of Experts on the Caribbean Sea Initiative to further advance the implementation of resolution 55/203, inter alia, through the preparation of a technical report,

Cognizant of the importance of the Caribbean Sea to present and future generations and its importance to the heritage, and the continuing economic well-being and sustenance of people living in the area, and the urgent need for the countries of the region to take appropriate steps for its preservation and protection, with the support of the international community,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[14]

2. *Recognizes* the importance of adopting an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development;

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[12] See International Atomic Energy Agency, *Resolutions and Other Decisions of the General Conference, Forty-fourth Regular Session, 18-22 September 2000* (GC(44)/RES/DEC(2000)).

[13] Ibid., *Forty-sixth Regular Session, 16-20 September 2002* (GC(46)/RES/DEC(2002)).

[14] A/57/131.

3. *Encourages* the further promotion of an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development, in accordance with the recommendations contained in resolution 54/225, as well as the provisions of Agenda 21,[3] the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[3] the outcome of the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly,[4] the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development,[5] the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation[6] and the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development, and in conformity with relevant international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea;[7]

4. *Also encourages* the continued efforts of the Caribbean countries to develop further an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development and, in this regard, to continue to develop regional cooperation in the management of their ocean affairs in the context of sustainable development, in order to address such issues as land-based pollution, pollution from ships, physical impacts on coral reefs and the diversity and dynamic interaction of, and competition among, socio-economic activities for the use of the coastal areas and the marine environment and their resources;

5. *Calls upon* States to continue to prioritize action on marine pollution from land-based sources as part of their national sustainable development strategies and programmes, in an integrated and inclusive manner, and also calls upon them to advance the implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities,[15] and the Montreal Declaration on the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities;[16]

6. *Calls upon* the United Nations system and the international community to assist, as appropriate, Caribbean countries and their regional organizations in their efforts to ensure the protection of the Caribbean Sea from degradation as a result of pollution from ships, in particular through the illegal release of oil and other harmful substances, and from illegal dumping or accidental release of hazardous waste, including radioactive materials, nuclear waste and dangerous chemicals, in violation of relevant international rules and standards, as well as pollution from land-based activities;

7. *Calls upon* all relevant States to take the necessary steps to bring into force, and to support the implementation of, the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities[10] to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region[9] in order to protect the marine environment of the Caribbean Sea from land-based pollution and degradation;

8. *Calls upon* the international community to support the efforts of the Working Group of Experts on the Caribbean Sea Initiative of the Association of Caribbean States to further implement resolution 55/203, and invites the Association to submit a report on its progress to the Secretary-General for consideration during the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly;

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[15] A/51/116, annex II.

[16] E/CN.17/2002/PC.2/15, annex, sect. I.

9. *Calls upon* all States to become contracting parties to relevant international agreements to promote the protection of the marine environment of the Caribbean Sea from pollution and degradation from ships;

10. *Supports* the efforts of Caribbean countries to implement sustainable fisheries management programmes by strengthening the recently established Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism;

11. *Calls upon* States, taking into consideration the Convention on Biological Diversity,[17] to develop national, regional and international programmes for halting the loss of marine biodiversity in the Caribbean Sea, in particular fragile ecosystems, such as coral reefs;

12. *Invites* intergovernmental organizations within the United Nations system to continue efforts to assist Caribbean countries in becoming parties to the relevant conventions and protocols and to implement them effectively;

13. *Calls upon* the international community, the United Nations system and the multilateral financial institutions, and invites the Global Environment Facility, within its mandate, to support actively the above-mentioned approach;

14. *Calls upon* Member States to improve as a matter of priority their emergency response capabilities and the containment of environmental damage, particularly in the Caribbean Sea, in the event of natural disasters or of an accident or incident relating to maritime navigation;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to it at its fifty-ninth session, under the sub-item entitled "Further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States" of the item entitled "Environment and sustainable development", on the implementation of the present resolution, taking into account the views expressed by relevant regional organizations.

Draft resolution II
Further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 49/122 of 19 December 1994 on the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,

Recalling also its resolutions 51/183 of 16 December 1996, 52/202 of 18 December 1997 and 53/189 of 15 December 1998, the review document adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-second special session,[4] and its resolutions 54/224 of 22 December 1999, 55/199 of 20 December 2000, 55/202 of 20 December 2000 and 56/198 of 21 December 2001, and recalling further the Declaration of Barbados[2] and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[3]

[17] See United Nations Environment Programme, *Convention on Biological Diversity* (Environmental Law and Institution Programme Activity Centre), June 1992.

Taking into account the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[5] and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation,[6] the particular emphasis given to small island developing States in the Declaration and the Plan of Implementation, and the call for the General Assembly to consider convening an international meeting for a comprehensive review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States in 2004,

Recalling the report of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on its tenth session,[18]

Welcoming the establishment of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, and emphasizing the importance of issues related to small island developing States within the United Nations system,

Recognizing that, within the context of the challenges of development, small island developing States experience specific problems arising from small size, remoteness, geographical dispersion, vulnerability to natural disasters, fragile ecosystems, constraints on transport and communication, isolation from markets, vulnerability to exogenous economic and financial shocks, limited internal markets, lack of natural resources, limited freshwater supply, heavy dependence on imports and limited commodities, depletion of non-renewable resources and migration,

Recognizing also the significant efforts of small island developing States to achieve sustainable development and the need to continue to enhance their capacities to participate effectively in the multilateral financial and trading system,

Reiterating the importance of the vulnerability index as a tool for assessing, and thereby addressing, the vulnerability of small island developing States, as well as identifying the challenges to their sustainable development,

Recognizing the relevance of such work to the mandate of the Committee for Development Policy concerning criteria for the identification, including designation and graduation, of the least developed countries,

Noting the efforts to implement the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States at the national, regional and international levels and the need for regional and global institutions to continue to supplement the efforts being made at the national level, inter alia, through the provision of adequate financial and technical support,

Emphasizing the continuing need for the technical and financial support of projects that were presented within the context of the implementation of the Programme of Action, inter alia, at the meeting of representatives of donor countries and small island developing States, held in New York from 24 to 26 February 1999,[19] as well as the partnership initiatives presented by small island developing States and their organizations during the World Summit on Sustainable Development,

Noting in this regard the preparatory activities undertaken at the national and regional levels for the World Summit on Sustainable Development and expressing

[18] TD/390.

[19] See A/S-22/4.

its appreciation to the Government of Singapore for hosting the interregional meeting of the Alliance of Small Island States held in preparation for the Summit from 7 to 11 January 2002,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[20]

2. *Reiterates* the urgent need for the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States[3] and of the Declaration and review document adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-second special session[4] to assist small island developing States in their efforts to achieve sustainable development;

3. *Welcomes* the efforts made at the national, subregional and regional levels to implement the Programme of Action;

4. *Requests* the relevant organs and agencies of the United Nations system, as well as the regional commissions and organizations, to undertake concrete measures, within their respective mandates, for the further implementation of the Programme of Action in the context of their programmes;

5. *Decides* to convene an international meeting in 2004, which will include a high-level segment, to undertake a full and comprehensive review of the implementation of the Programme of Action, as called for in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,[21] and welcomes the offer of the Government of Mauritius to host the international meeting;

6. *Also decides* that the comprehensive review referred to in paragraph 5 above should seek a renewed political commitment by all countries to, and should focus on, practical and pragmatic actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action, inter alia, through the mobilization of resources and assistance for small island developing States;

7. *Further decides* to convene regional preparatory meetings of small island developing States in the African, Caribbean and Pacific regions, as well as an interregional preparatory meeting for all small island developing States, to undertake the review of the Programme of Action at the national, subregional and regional levels and to identify and develop input for the above-mentioned review that is specific to small island developing States while maximizing coherence and complementarity with respect to other preparatory work;

8. *Welcomes* the initial efforts of the small island developing States to develop the national and regional modalities necessary for the regional preparatory meetings, and calls upon the United Nations system in general and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat in particular, as well as the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, the multilateral financial institutions and the Global Environment Facility, to put in place modalities at the international level that will facilitate the meetings referred to in paragraphs 5 and 7 above in a timely manner;

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[20] A/57/131.

[21] See *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1), chap. I, resolution 2, annex, para. 61.

9. *Requests* that, in facilitating the review of the implementation of the Programme of Action, the United Nations system seek country input that is short and well-focused and that draws upon, inter alia, material prepared for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, in order to minimize the burden on participating States while maximizing the usefulness of the information gathered;

10. *Invites* the Commission on Sustainable Development, at its eleventh session, to consider its role in the preparatory process for the comprehensive review of the Programme of Action;

11. *Invites* all Member States and States members of the specialized agencies, relevant regional and international agencies and organizations and the major groups identified in Agenda 21,[22] in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Commission on Sustainable Development[23] and the rules of procedure of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,[24] as well as the established practices of the Commission, to participate fully in the activities identified for the further implementation of and effective follow-up to the Programme of Action and in the preparations for the comprehensive review;

12. *Invites* all international meetings of relevance to small island developing States, including the regional and interregional meetings of small island developing States, to provide relevant input into the comprehensive review and its preparatory process;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General, pursuant to paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 56/198, to give further consideration to strengthening the Small Island Developing States Unit, inter alia, through the regularization of the current post of Interregional Adviser for Small Island Developing States at the earliest opportunity, thereby enabling the Unit to assist in the preparations for the comprehensive review of the Programme of Action;

14. *Calls* for the participation of associate members of regional commissions in the comprehensive review of the Programme of Action, and in the preparatory process therefor, as observers, in the same capacity specified for their participation in the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, held in 1994, and in the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly, held in 1999 to review the implementation of the Programme of Action;

15. *Decides* to establish a voluntary fund for the purpose of assisting small island developing States, including the least developed among them, to participate fully and effectively in the international meeting referred to in paragraph 5 above, as well as in the various preparatory processes referred to in paragraph 7 above, and

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[22] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II. The major groups are women; young people; indigenous people and their communities; non-governmental organizations; local authorities; workers and their trade unions; business and industry, including transnational corporations; the scientific and technological community; and farmers.

[23] See *Rules of Procedure of the Functional Commissions of the Economic and Social Council* (E/5975/Rev.1).

[24] A/CONF.199/2 and Corr.1.

invites Governments, intergovernmental organizations and the major groups accredited to the Commission on Sustainable Development to contribute to the fund;

16. *Urges* all relevant organizations to finalize, by 2004, the work on the vulnerability index, taking into account the particular circumstances and needs of small island developing States;

17. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-eighth session, under the item entitled "Environment and sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States";

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution.